

NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilius quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

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Communications.

FOR THE NATIONAL RECORDER.

SATURDAY SERMON.

No. 5.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good.
Psalm cvii.

Surrounded by the blessings of Providence through the whole course of our lives, we too readily forget their value, and too seldom feel grateful for the goodness of our Heavenly Father.

It is therefore proper and necessary to fix upon certain times at which we will meditate upon the various causes by which our happiness is promoted, and in contemplating the mercy of the Almighty, feel gratitude renewed in our hearts.

The ordinary comforts of life are certainly not the less valuable because they are of daily occurrence. They form the essence of our enjoyment, though we generally forget them to fix our eyes upon some addition of our own.

We should look around us and thank the Most High, for the pure air, the blue sky, the bright stars of the firmament, the soft light of the moon, and the splendour of the sun. We should be grateful for the change of seasons, and of day and night: for the health that enables us to fulfil the duties of life, and the quiet sleep that closes our eyes in the hours of darkness: the plentiful fruits of the earth, and the crystal streams that murmur around, should call our attention to the hand that blesses us: for all the beauties of nature and comforts of art; for all the enjoyments that we receive from our senses; for the gift of reason and the power of improving it; for the passions that strengthen us, and for Hope that sweetens the present while she points to the future, we should of-

fer our humble gratitude to Him whose smile has called them around us, and whose hand is ever over us to bless us:

— 'Wherefore Nature's form
So exquisitely fair! her breath perfum'd
With such æthereal sweetness? whence her
voice
Inform'd at will to raise or to depress
The impassion'd soul? and whence the robes
of light
Which thus invest her with more lovely
pomp
Than fancy can describe? Whence but from
Thee,
O source divine of ever-flowing love!
And thy unmeasur'd goodness? Not content
With every food of life to nourish man,
By kind illusions of the wondering sense
Thou mak'st all Nature beauty to his eye,
Or music to his ear'
— 'to chase the gloom
Of care, and make the destin'd road of life
Delightful to his feet.'

Besides these blessings, which are diffused over the whole earth, we have to be thankful for favours which distinguish us from other men; for the pure spirit of Christianity, which promoting our happiness by correcting the anger and selfishness which have been brought into our minds by a perversion of those passions which were given us for good—softens our hearts, and makes us better qualified to attain the ends of our creation. And still narrowing the circle, we should thank God for a system of government which more nearly approaches the fulfilment of the purposes for which it was erected, than any other in the world. That we are of all men the most unfettered in our words and actions, while the authority of the law protects our persons and property, and preserves order around us, is a blessing which calls for an expression of gratitude, not only from every member of the republic, but from the whole nation in its collective capacity.

B b

VOL. II.

Let every man survey the bounties that are given for his peculiar happiness; the increase of his riches, the cultivation of his understanding, and the improvement of his heart. All the enjoyments of society; all the confidence of friendship, arise from the goodness of the Creator.

For all the happiness of conjugal and paternal love; for the kind smile of the wife, whose tenderness soothes all sorrow and drives all care,—whose disinterested affection dwells upon him with perfect reliance—his most grateful thanksgivings should ascend to the Heavenly Being who has preserved for his felicity the best gift of paradise.

While we thus meditate upon the goodness of our Maker, he gives us another proof of his beneficence. The very act of thanksgiving makes us better and happier:

— ‘The attentive mind,
By this harmonious action on her powers
Becomes herself harmonious: wont so oft
In outward things to meditate the charm
Of sacred order, soon she seeks at home
To find a kindred order, to exert
Within herself this elegance of love,
This fair inspir’d delight: her temper’d
powers
Refine at length, and every passion wears
A chaster, milder, more attractive mien.’

YORICK.

If a person unknown to us were seen begging along street from door to door, and accepting alms not only from the rich, but even from the most necessitous parts of the community, we should doubtless think of him as of the lowest order. Yet if any one draws a prize in a lottery, made up (as the prizes all in part are) of the hard earned wages, or pilferings, of the labouring poor, he values himself, and is valued by others, upon it, quite as much as if he got it altogether by honest industry.

To propose that these lucky people, as they are called, should return a large proportion of their prizes, as an act of justice, to the families impoverished by their gain, would be in vain. But certainly it is reasonable to expect their liberal aid in alleviating the distress their gain has so greatly tended to produce; and the burden the public has brought upon itself by legalizing a species of

gambling so very unfair to the parties engaged as that (beyond any other) evidently is. D.

Matthew Lyon has published a long memorial to Congress in the Kentucky Reporter, which he intends to present again this session, for remuneration for his losses and sufferings under the sedition law.

He states, that formerly his principal motive for petitioning was, that reproach should be removed from his character, but that now he is old and poor, and he has need of the pecuniary remuneration due him, to enable him to pay his just debts, in order that he may descend to the grave in peace with all the world.

It would be a good speculation to send venison to England. It sells there for five or six times the price it costs here.

H.

Miscellany.

[FROM THE VILLAGE RECORD.]

I have often thought that if we could trace the afflictive dispensations of Providence to their remote consequences, we should find them invariably ‘blessings in disguise;’ for instance, sickness has often a most salutary effect, not only as it reminds us of the uncertainty of human life, but also by affording leisure for a serious retrospect of our path, it has a tendency to produce an entire change of character. I have known this to be the case in several instances, but I never saw so complete a change produced, as in a lady whom I recently visited.

Caroline Bernet was, eight years since, an imperious and capricious beauty—she was blessed with a comprehensive mind, which had been cultivated by superior advantages of education, but the acquisition of knowledge and brilliant accomplishments were the principal objects of attention; the benevolent affections of the heart, and the Christian virtues, had been almost totally neglected. Such she was at seventeen; accomplished, witty, and handsome. But it may well be supposed that one who would willingly risk wounding the feelings of a friend, to indulge a pointed repartee,—one who assumed the right of dictating to all her associates, could not be esteemed; she was indeed rather admired and feared than loved. Shortly

after I removed from the neighbourhood in which she resided, she had a severe attack of illness, from which her recovery was long doubtful: from that period I had heard nothing respecting her, until two years after, I was informed that she was upon the eve of being united to my friend Charles Lenox. This intelligence was painful to me; for though I was told she was become more amiable than when I knew her, I could not believe she was deserving the affections of so excellent a man.

Numerous engagements had for six years prevented me from visiting N—, the place of their residence; but in passing through that city a few weeks since, I was desirous to renew my intimacy with him who had been one of the dearest friends of my youth. When I called at his house, Charles was not at home, but Caroline welcomed me with so much cordiality, that I was easily induced to accept her invitation to await his return. He soon arrived, and I found all that I had anticipated from his early worth was realized. Themselves and a lovely little girl of three years old, formed their fireside circle. In short, my visit, which I intended should be made in a day, was protracted to a week—and the week which I spent with this interesting family, is registered by memory as one of the happiest of my existence.

One day, in conversation with Caroline, I spoke of the domestic comfort she appeared to enjoy. 'Yes,' she replied, 'I am surrounded by so many blessings, that I sometimes fear I shall become too much attached to this world; and after a pause she observed, 'all my happiness was produced by an illness, which at the time I considered an insupportable evil—for is it probable that such a man as Charles Lenox could have loved a woman so unamiable as I was, previous to that event? or had he even been so misguided, would not my perverseness have embittered both of our lives?

'During the lingering period of convalescence I was compelled to look into my own heart—I reviewed my life—I traced my own character with impartiality, and shrunk with horror from the picture; but after being awakened, I could not avert my eyes from the contemplation of my depravity, and I was

at length in mercy, enabled sincerely to repent. Yet even after my recovery, I was frequently alarmed at feeling the revival of my propensity to satire, and it was long ere I attained that Christian meekness of disposition which I so fervently desired—but these asperities have, in a great measure, been removed from my path, and I am now,' she continued, while her lovely face glowed with animation, 'I am now capable of contributing to the happiness of a man who deserves my all of love and gratitude, and of fostering the seeds of virtue in the heart of this child, that she may one day be worthy of such a father.' E.

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Bedford, West Chester county, N. Y.
17th November, 1819.

Dear Sir—I have received the copy of a circular letter, which, as chairman of the committee, appointed by a late public meeting at Trenton, respecting slavery, you were pleased to direct to me on the 5th instant.

Little can be added to what has been said and written on the subject of slavery. I concur in the opinion, that it ought not to be introduced, nor permitted, in any of the *new states*, and that it ought to be gradually diminished and finally abolished in all of them. To me, the constitutional authority of Congress, to prohibit the migration and importation of slaves, into any of the states, does not appear questionable.

The first article of the constitution specifies the legislative powers committed to the Congress.—The 9th section of that article has these words:

"The *migration or importation* of such persons as any of the now existing states shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress, prior to the year 1808; but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person."

I understand the sense and meaning of this clause to be—that the power of the Congress, although competent to prohibit such migration and importation, was not to be exercised with respect to the *then* existing states, (and then only) until the year 1808: but that the Congress were at liberty to make such prohibition as to any *new states*, which might in the *meantime* be established; and further, that from and after *that* period, they were authorized to make such prohibition, as to *all the states*, whether new or old.

It will, I presume, be admitted, that slaves were the persons intended. The word *slaves* was avoided, probably on account of the existing toleration of slavery, and its discordancy with the principles of the revolution, and from a consciousness of its being repugnant to the

following positions in the declaration of independence :

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal—that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights—that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

As to my taking an *active* part in 'organizing a plan of co-operation,' the state of my health has long been such as not to admit of it.

Be pleased to assure the committee of my best wishes for their success, and permit me to assure you of the esteem and regard with which I am, dear sir, your faithful and obedient servant.

JOHN JAY.

The Hon. Elias Boudinot.

ON INDECISION.

FROM FOSTER'S ESSAYS.

A little acquaintance with mankind will supply numberless illustrations of the importance of decision. You will often see a person anxiously hesitating a long time between different, or opposite determinations, though impatient of the pain of such a state, and ashamed of its debility. A faint impulse of preference alternates toward the one, and toward the other; and the mind, while thus held in a trembling balance, is vexed that it cannot get some new thought, or feeling, or motive, that it has not more sense, more resolution, more of any thing that would save it from envying even the decisive instinct of brutes. It wishes that any circumstance might happen, or any person might appear, that could deliver it from the miserable suspense.

In many instances when a determination is adopted, it is frustrated by this indecision. A man, for example, resolves to make a journey to-morrow, which he is not under an absolute necessity to make, but the inducements appear, this evening, so strong, that he does not think it possible he can hesitate in the morning. In the morning, however, these inducements have unaccountably lost much of their force. Like the sun that is rising at the same time, they appear dim through a mist; and the sky lowers, or he fancies that it lowers, the fatigue appears formidable; and, he lingers, uncertain till an advanced hour determine the question for him, by the certainty that it is now too late to go.

Perhaps a man has conclusive reasons for wishing to remove to another place of residence. But when he is going to take the first actual step towards executing his purpose, he is met by a new train of ideas, presenting the possible, and magnifying the unquestionable disadvantages and uncertainties of a new situation; awakening the natural reluctance to quit a place to which habit has accommodated his feelings, and which has grown *warm* to him, if I may so express it, by his having been in it so long; giving new

strength to his affection for the friends whom he must leave, and so detaining him still lingering, long after his serious judgment has dictated to him to be gone.

A man may think of some desirable alteration in his plan of life; perhaps in the arrangements of his family, or in the mode of his intercourse with society. Would it be a good thing? He thinks it would be a good thing. It certainly would be a very good thing. He wishes it were done. He will attempt it *almost* immediately. The following day, he doubts whether it would be quite prudent. Many things are to be considered. May there not be in the change some evil of which he is not aware? Is this a proper time? What will people say?—And thus, though he does not formally renounce his purpose, he recedes from it, with a wish that he could be fully satisfied of the propriety of renouncing it. Perhaps he wishes that the thought had never occurred to him, since it has diminished his self-complacency, without promoting his virtue. But the next day, his conviction of the wisdom and advantage of such a reform comes again with great force. Then, Is it so practicable as I was at first willing to imagine? Why not? Other men have done much greater things; a resolute mind is omnipotent; difficulty is a stimulus and a triumph to a strong spirit; 'the joys of conquest are the joys of man.' What need I care about people's opinion? It shall be done. He makes the first attempt. But some unexpected obstacle presents itself; he feels the awkwardness of attempting an unaccustomed manner of acting; the questions or the ridicule of his friends disconcert him; his ardour abates and expires. He again begins to question, whether it be wise, whether it be necessary, whether it be possible; and at last, surrenders his purpose, to be perhaps resumed when the same feelings return, and to be in the same manner again relinquished.

While animated by some magnanimous sentiments which he has heard or read, or while musing on some great example, a man may conceive the design, and partly sketch the plan, of a generous enterprise; and his imagination revels in the felicity that would follow to others and to himself from its accomplishment. It is an essential part of the design that *he* shall accomplish it.

Yet a certain consciousness in his mind doubtfully asks, Is this any thing more than a dream; or am I really destined to achieve such an enterprise? Destined! and why are not this conviction of its excellence, this conscious duty of performing the noblest things that are possible, and this passionate ardour, enough to secure that I shall effect it?—He feels indignant at that failing part of his nature which puts him so far below his own conceptions, and below the examples which he is admiring; and this feeling assists him to resolve, that he will undertake this enterprise, that he certainly will, though the Alps or the ocean lie between him and the object. Again his ardour slackens; distrust-

ful of himself, he wishes to know how the design would appear to other minds; and when he speaks of it to his associates, one of them wonders, another laughs, and another frowns. His pride attempts, while with them a manful defence; but his mind is gradually descending toward their level, he becomes ashamed to entertain a visionary project, which therefore, like a rejected friend, desists from intruding on him or following him, and he subsides, at last, into what he labours to believe, a man too rational for the schemes of ill-calculating enthusiasm. It were strange if the effort to make out this favourable estimate of himself did not succeed, while it is so much more pleasant to attribute one's defect of enterprise to wisdom, which on maturer thought disapproves of it, than to imbecility, which shrinks from it.

A person of indecisive character wonders how all the embarrassments in the world happened to meet exactly in *his* way, to place him just in that one situation for which he is peculiarly unadapted, and in which he is also willing to think no other man could have acted with facility or confidence. Incapable of setting up a firm purpose on the basis of things as they are, he is often employed in vain speculations on some different supposable state of things, which would have saved him from all this perplexity and irresolution. He thinks what a determined course he could have pursued, if his talents, his health, his age, had been different; if he had been acquainted with some one person sooner; if his friends were, in this or the other point, different from what they are; or if fortune had showered her favours on him. And he gives himself as much license to complain, as if a right to all these advantages had been conferred on him at his nativity, but refused, by a malignant or capricious fate, to his life. Thus he is occupied—instead of catching with a vigilant eye, and seizing with a strong hand, all the possibilities of his actual situation.

A man without decision can never be said to belong to himself; since, if he dared to assert that he did, the puny force of some cause, about as powerful, you would have supposed, as a spider, may capture the hapless boaster the very next moment, and triumphantly show the futility of the determinations by which he was to have proved the independence of his understanding and his will. He belongs to whatever can seize him; and innumerable things do actually verify their claim on him, and arrest him as he tries to go along; as twigs and chips, floating near the edge of a river, are intercepted by every weed, and whirled into every little eddy. —Having concluded on a design, he may pledge himself to accomplish it, if the five hundred diversities of feeling which may come within the week, will let him. As his character precludes all foresight of his conduct, he may sit and wonder what form and direction his views and actions are destined to take to-morrow; as a farmer waits the un-

certain changes of the clouds to decide what he shall do.

This man's opinions and determinations always depend very much on other human beings; and what chance for consistency and stability, while the persons with whom he may converse, or transact, are so various? This very evening, he may talk with a man whose sentiments will melt away the present form and outline of his purposes, however firm and defined he may have fancied them to be. A succession of persons whose faculties were stronger than his own, might, in spite of his irresolute re-action, take him and dispose of him as they pleased. An infirm character practically confesses itself made for subjection, and passes, like a slave, from owner to owner. Sometimes indeed it happens, that a man of this sort falls into the train, and under the permanent ascendancy, of some one stronger character, which thus becomes through life the oracle and guide, and gives the inferior a steady will and plan. This, when the leading character is virtuous, is a fortunate relief to the feeling, and an advantageous point gained to the utility, of the subordinate appended mind.

It is inevitable that the regulation of every man's plan must greatly depend on the course of events, which come in an order not to be foreseen or prevented. But even in accommodating the plans of conduct to the train of events, the difference between two men may be no less than that in the one instance the man is subservient to the events, and in the other the events are made subservient to the man. Some men seem to have been taken along by a succession of events, and, as it were, handed forward in quiet passiveness from one to another, without any determined principle in their own characters, by which they could constrain those events to serve a design formed antecedently to them, or apparently in defiance of them. The events seized them as a neutral material, not they the events. Others, advancing through life with an internal invincible determination of mind, have seemed to make the train of circumstances, whatever they were, conduce as much to their chief design as if they had taken place on purpose. It is wonderful, how even the apparent casualties of life seem to bow to a spirit that will not bow to them, and yield to assist a design, after having in vain attempted to frustrate it.

Description of a Convict Ship.

The appearance and regulation of a convict ship are as singular as the novel punishment of transportation, or as a regulated colony of very lawless convicts. Order and discipline, necessary to such an abandoned society, prevail in every part of the ship. The men are arranged in one long line, the women in a second; but the sexes are separated. The former dine upon their bedsteads, the latter sleep on a species of table, three longitudi-

nally and two collaterally. To preserve subordination and regularity, a soldier in his regimentals is placed at the interval of ten convicts, as their guard. An adequate space is left in the lowest hall for the cockpit and surgery; a second space between decks for the stowage of stores; and a third on the quarter for the apartment of the free settlers, and for the cabins or beds of the officers. All the convicts are compelled to wash once in the day their heads, their feet, and their faces; the men under the superintendence of a soldier; the women apart, under the eye of a matron. The males are marched in a body of six across the deck to the pump; the sailors draw up the water, and they are artfully compelled to labour for health at the pump, and rinse away the dirt. By this prudent precaution, in every variety of weather, they obtain fresh air, and avoid the scurvy or cutaneous diseases. A surgeon every day inspects this human cargo, and reports its state. They are paid, per head, a sum for those who survive the voyage. Hence, it is the surgeon's interest to preserve the lives of those diseased wretches. To insure the assembly, disengaged from brothels, ale-houses, and gaols, to the appearance, or to the idea of decorum, the men wash their bodies above decks, and the women between them. The sexes are forbid to mingle, even at their meals. So vigorous a discipline is only supported by severity of punishment. Chains, fastened round the body, and securely fettered around the ankles, confine and distress each male convict by the clanking sound, and by annoying the feet.—This image of slavery is copied from the irons used in the slave ship in Guinea; as in these, bolts and locks also are at hand, in the sides and ribs of each transport, (for the vessels on this service, with peculiar propriety, are so named,) to prevent the escape, or preclude the movements of a convict. If he attempts to pass the sentry, he is liable to be stabbed; for the attempt, a convict was lately shot, and his executioner was applauded by his officer for a faithful, though severe, discharge of duty. If a felon kill his companion, a case very frequent in the quarrels of these highwaymen and robbers, the murderer is hung at the yard-arm, and his body is slowly carried through the ship, and launched into the deep. For the theft of provisions, or of clothes from his neighbour, a case yet more common and more natural to footpads, the convicted depredator is shot. For inferior crimes, as riots or quarrels, a soldier is ordered to whip the offender with martial severity. On the slightest appearance of mutiny, the ringleader is cast headlong into the sea in his irons and in his clothes—"We commit this body to the deep," the chaplain repeats; but the words of Shakspeare would, perhaps, be more applicable:

"O mutineer, if thou hast any hope of Heaven's bliss,
Lift up thy hand; make signal of that hope.
He sinks, and makes no sign!"

[*Bost. Ev. Gaz.*]

SCHUYLKILL.

Philadelphia, 11th mo. 17th.

"With respect to the improvements on the Schuylkill, may observe, that the dam, canal and lock at Matson's ford are nearly finished. Capt. Cooly was to let the water into the canal to-day. At Norristown the dam is expected to be finished this week; the chamber locks nearly done; the grand lock and other parts expected to be finished within a few weeks: when this is done, the navigation will be complete from the head of the pond, occasioned by Norristown dam, to tide water; though the dam and other improvements making at Fair Mount by the city corporation, will make it more complete, as boats may then go down or up without any reference to the tide, which is now only practicable at high water.

"At Lewis' Falls, a few miles below Reading, the high dam of eighteen feet is complete, and the locks nearly so, as they have passed boats through. A dam above that, of six feet, going on, and with the locks is expected to be finished, so as to pass this season. Very extensive works are going on above Reading.

"The locks and dams are all made, or intended to be so, eighty feet long, and seventeen feet wide; the depth of water, below Reading, three feet—of course rafts and boats less than these dimensions, can pass them—and I think it likely, that by spring or summer, 1821, if not before, steam-boats may land passengers at Norristown, at the mouth of French creek, and at Reading."

[*Village Record.*

MOLASSES FROM PUMPKINS.

Perhaps it is not generally known that excellent molasses may be made from pumpkins. The process is exceedingly simple, and the product resembles in every particular of colour, taste and smell, the common sugar-house molasses.

Pare clean, and slice the pumpkins, pour on as much water as will nearly cover them, and boil until the whole is converted into a pultaceous mass. Press out the liquor, and boil it for seven or eight hours, then pass it through a fine sieve to clear it from the small particles of pumpkin. The pulp that remains is excellent food for cattle, and in preparing pumpkins for their use, if the little additional trouble of paring and cleansing were taken, molasses might be made in con-

siderable quantity by every person who keeps a cow. Half a dozen pumpkins will yield half a gallon of molasses.

X.
Pittsburgh Gaz.]

Future Prospects of Sacket's Harbour.

Com. Rodgers' toast, at the late public dinner given at that place:

Sacket's Harbour.—Like Venice, the natural emporium of an inland sea, destined to become the seat of wealth, and the theme of future historians—may the prosperity of its enterprising citizens, realize to the utmost of their wishes, all that Providence in its bounty has presented for their anticipation.

It is said that Albert Gallatin, minister to the court of France, has resigned his office, and will return to this country in June next.

The President's message reached New York, by the express from Washington, (a distance of 230 miles,) in rather less than 18 hours. This is great despatch: and such as the government ought to be able to command for communion with distant parts of the empire, in all cases requiring rapid communication. Had such despatch been used on more than one occasion during the late war, in the communication of orders, very different results would sometimes have taken place; and if the printers in these hard times can afford to pay the cost of it, it is surely always in the power of the government to command it. [Nat. Int.

Quære.—“It may be thought a foolish question, Sir, but I should be glad to know why it is that striking an eel upon the tail destroys its life more readily than striking it on the head?” [Lit. Gaz.

The Society of Artists of New York have presented sir Thomas Lowndes two thousand dollars, for a portrait of our distinguished countryman, Benjamin West. When received, it will be placed in the academy of arts of that city.

Mr. Thomas Smith, Lexington (Ky.) proposes to publish a literary journal to be called the *Journal of Belles Lettres*, to be conducted by Messrs. Mariano and Everett. It is to consist of articles on modern politics, particularly relating to

America, and essays upon ancient and modern literature.

Literary Intelligence.—Messrs. Constable & Co. (Edinburgh) have announced “*Ivanhoe*,” a romance. By the author of *Tales of my Landlord*, *Waverly*, &c. It was to have appeared in November.

THE GERMAN INTELLIGENCER.

December, 1819.

The *Jenaische Allgemeine Literatur-Zeitung* is one of the standard and most ably conducted literary journals of Germany. A late number contains a review of the following works:

Der Deutsche in Nordamerika. The German in North America.—*Birbeck's Notes on a Journey in America.*—*The same in German, accompanied with an Appendix.*—*Birbeck's Letters from Illinois.*—*Hall's Travels in Canada and the United States.*—*Bradbury's Travels in the Interior of America.*—*Melish's Travels.*—*Drake's Picture of Cincinnati.*—Instead of making such works the text for a chapter of slander on America, the “Referent” makes judicious allowances for the most obvious exaggerations, and produces a very just view, particularly of the western parts of the United States. He introduces the fertile subject by the following remarks, which the American reader will peruse with interest and satisfaction.

“While in old Europe streams of blood were shed, at one time to impose laws on a great nation, at another to establish, and again to overthrow, the dynasty of a daring conqueror; while here we are still agitated by fearful apprehensions of obtrusive revolutions, dissatisfied with present things, afraid of the future; and yet feel that a retrogression to the past is quite as impossible as it would be contrary to reason; while amid this still protracted strife of a new and old time, the present generation in vain consumes its powers, without being able to comfort itself with the consciousness, that seed is sown for posterity: during all this an opposite revolution on the western side of the Atlantic, advances in its unobstructed career with gigantic strides. A new Europe presents itself, with all the riches of the intellectual formation of the old: states arise, not at the expense of others, not amid bloodshed, but through peaceful settlers [*Ansiedler*] on a soil ceded in a legal form by its earlier proprietors, and civil liberty exhibits herself not only in her fullest scope, but also in her most beneficent consequences.

“There it is fully proved, that the sovereignty of law, and liberty of conscience are not the reveries of philosophers, and that men are of full age [*mnendig*] as soon as you are willing to discharge them from unnatural guardianship.”

The reviewer proceeds to show that it is not a matter of surprise that many persons in

Europe, who labour under heavy burdens should cast their eyes to America, where every one can work for himself and the public weal; where every one can pass for what he is worth, unembarrassed by heritable rank; and where he worships his Creator according to his own conviction. The great cause of emigration is "in the subject itself, in the attractive representation which is made of the state of things on the other side of the water, in the immoderate requisitions which the states of old Europe lay on the citizen, unavoidably in some measure, and often unnecessarily, and in the natural propensity of man to self-dependence."—"One fortunate emigrant draws hundreds and thousands after him, while the misfortune of others deters but few."

The German Intelligencer offers his readers some extracts of a letter from a gentleman of Philadelphia: "We had no idea until now of the extent and excellence of the literature of Russia. Even Austria, which Madame de Staél* places so far below the other states in point of learning and genius, is now striving with success to distinguish itself. I have lately read with great delight the two excellent poems by Alxinger. I have seen also some late numbers of the Vienna Quarterly Review, and I acknowledge that it is fully equal, if not superior, to the London and Edinburgh publications of the same kind. There is in one of the numbers a review of the different works lately published in London and Paris on the liberty of the press, in which this delicate subject is discussed with as much freedom as decency. The *Mines d'Orient*, published also at Vienna, are known to all the world, and are really what they purport to be, the richest mines extant of Oriental and Asiatic learning. The learned Von Hammer, a member of the American Philosophical Society, is at the head of this admirable periodical publication. Such, even in the south of Germany, is the present state of literature, by means of an active correspondence with that country, those treasures will be more and more open to us. The study of the German language is becoming fashionable here among the literati, several of whom have put themselves under the tuition of a master, and apply themselves seriously to it." G. S.

GOVERNMENT PAPER.

Expectations seem to be entertained by many that Congress will interfere in some manner with our present system of circulation, either to supply the place of that currency which has been withdrawn by the Banks, by an issue of treasury notes, or attempt to restrain the state legislatures in granting

* Madame de Staél's "Germany" was not the result of actual observation, or of judicious investigation; much of it is hearsay and invention. This subject will be discussed hereafter.

G. I.

charters to these institutions. This it is supposed can be done in compliance with the spirit of the constitution and the intention of its framers, for it cannot be presumed that those statesmen who were eye witnesses of the abuses of the paper system, who placed prohibitions on the state governments in the issue of "bills of credit," and the coinage of gold and silver, could yet mean to have left them with a power which indirectly defeats the design of these provisions of the constitution.

We do not expect that Congress will at all interfere on the first of these topics. The previous derangement of our currency is now nearly rectified, and we rely with firmness on the good sense and intelligence of that body to resist and throw out any proposition for any issue of treasury notes, or any description of government paper whatever, on the ground that there is a real deficiency of circulating medium. That there is a great relative deficiency compared to the quantity that has of late flooded the country, there can be no doubt; but its expansion in the first instance and its contraction in the last, are in the relation of *cause* and *effect*, and no human legislation can control the laws of this moral necessity. As an excess of currency leads then necessarily to a proportionate reduction, and to a *reaction*, so the interference of legislators, if it do aggravate the disorder, will at least postpone the period of cure. The distress and embarrassment must in the end correspond in duration and degree with the previous facilities of credit and state of artificial prosperity. Those who have borrowed a larger sum than they could be entitled to take up from the amount of their capital, and those who have obtained credit without any capital, must in the natural course of events expect to be sorely pressed, whenever that which was the foundation of their projects of speculation should be withdrawn. Now, to legislate for such cases is in effect to attempt to sustain persons, who have overtraded, in their schemes a little longer than the period of their natural death.

But is the amount of our circulating medium inadequate to the safe business of the country? Is our trade checked by its contraction? Does our produce remain in our warehouses for the want of purchasers? This is the true state of the question. If remittances are sent to our markets, to an amount sufficient for the purchase of our staples, is not the clamour for more currency without reason or necessity? If these remittances are not here, either our produce is too high to be purchased on principles of reciprocity, or there must be a deficiency of money abroad. In either case, if our staples are shipped they must go to a losing market. On the first supposition, our customers *will not* purchase —on the last, they *cannot*. The issue of more paper is not, therefore, necessary for our trade in its wholesome state, or for the better sale of our produce abroad.

[*Southern Patriot.*

WOOL.

An Account of the Quantity of Wool (Sheep's) imported into Great Britain in Ten Years; distinguishing each Year, and the Countries from whence imported.—From an English Paper.

Countries from whence imported.	1802.	1803.	1804.	1805.	1806.	1807.	1808.	1809.	1810.	1811.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Denmark and Norway	—	105,956	212,086	445,125	61,783	481,696	11,253	35,523	363,671	12,081
Holigoland	—	—	—	—	—	—	58,814	246,441	67,311	112
Russia	—	—	—	—	—	—	168	896	32,149	—
Sweden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,633	15,424	504
Poland and Prussia	—	228	3,532	7,925	25,189	30,767	—	76,528	123,057	—
Germany	—	426,091	238,256	21,628	36,787	683,988	192,010	7,549	367,372	711,524
Holland	—	195,843	155,270	63,019	30,244	1,127	34,536	—	237,052	—
Flanders and France	—	201,195	54,714	—	—	—	61,633	—	2,873	—
Portugal and Madeira	—	495,213	230,430	161,204	200,366	259,945	289,067	30,619	969,033	3,018,961
Spain and Canaries	—	5,646,522	4,355,254	6,990,194	6,858,738	5,444,165	10,291,316	1,961,750	4,283,674	1,790,286
Gibraltar and Malta	—	25,000	107,876	159,176	41,395	28,216	14,349	78,130	297,445	5,952,407
Italy and Levant	—	86,258	437,856	206,426	35,173	8,679	6,992	—	889,093	2,581,262
Ireland, Guernsey, and Jersey	—	80,754	117,225	242,113	484,929	576,914	299,809	75,409	93,341	210,236
Asia	—	—	—	—	245	3,922	—	—	63,494	780
Africa	—	455,953	163,746	3,360	—	6,298	10,717	5,320	29,717	21,554
America, North	—	40,216	26,073	4,939	5,304	1,636	406	14,196	4,111	10,353
— South	—	—	20,012	36,898	21,649	20,493	61,176	67,193	116,173	20,192
Prize	—	105,839	4,568	48,175	361,499	168,468	25,205	37,927	3,619	69,323
Total,	7,749,112	6,020,775	8,157,213	8,546,378	7,333,993	11,768,926	2,353,725	6,845,933	10,936,224	4,739,972

Thoughts on Internal Improvements.

Much has been said, and various interesting facts lately published in newspapers and pamphlets, on Internal Improvements and Inland Navigation. Persons who have given themselves the trouble to read, and to reflect, must be convinced of the policy and propriety of the legislature of this state, adopting as expediently as practicable, liberal and efficient measures, to further and promote, a cheap and easy communication, between the Schuylkill, the Susquehanna, and the western waters.

The plan is undoubtedly feasible—the object is unquestionably great, and the expense ought not to occasion the smallest hesitancy or impediment to the commencement and perfection of this work. If it should be deemed unwise to dispose of state property at the present crisis, loans may be had on very reasonable terms, either in this country or in Europe. The money expended would be distributed among our own citizens, and among that class whose services and necessities entitle them to the peculiar protection and patronage of government. Although the treasury may not, for a few years, look as brilliant as it now does, or we should not be able to boast to the world, that the public securities amount to six or seven millions, a more active capital would be distributed among the labouring poor, and by a distribution of it in this manner, the state would be an actual and positive gainer, independent of the profits eventually to arise from dividends on stock thereby created, which with the enhanced value of public lands, would in a few years repay with double interest all the expenditures—so that upon every consideration, and every estimate that can be made, the community would derive important advantages, and the public resources and public credit, a most decided benefit.

Now is the time to commence these operations, whilst the wages of labour are much reduced, and the labourer in absolute want of employment. Besides, our sister states are prosecuting plans of internal improvement with such industry and zeal, as must and will tarnish our reputation, and blight our fairest prospects in every direction, if we do not promptly and efficiently enter into a competition laudable and honourable to ourselves and to our country. No time should be lost.

Let the members of the legislature, one and all, instantly abandon every principle or plan that might excite feelings of jealousy, prejudice, or distrust, and by one great and mighty effort, raise up a spirit of ambitious enterprise, worthy of the freemen of this republic—worthy of the legislative character of this commonwealth.

Let the first act of the legislature be, to appoint a respectable board of commissioners, with instructions to explore and designate the most suitable route—to estimate the cost—to procure engineers, surveyors, &c.—

and to report, as expeditiously as possible, the best plan of connecting the eastern with the western waters of Pennsylvania, through the centre of the state. [Amer. D. Ad.

BOARD OF TRADE.

When it is considered what a variety of extremely important objects of national legislation grows out of our extended commerce and the regulation of that immense revenue which is derived from imports alone, and when it is recollect that in our national councils there are only two or three practical merchants, it is matter of great astonishment that the idea of forming a board of trade has not been suggested. A correspondent has intimated, that such a board, composed of three merchants of integrity and intelligence, selected from different sections of the union, and permanently established, with moderate but competent salaries at the seat of government, would secure to the country great advantages, not only by collecting, through a free and general correspondence, and digesting and presenting, in a correct form, a great mass of information concerning the due regulation of our revenue, but also by furnishing to the executive many useful hints in relation to our foreign commercial intercourse.

[*Ref's Gazette.*

American Manufactures of Straw.

FROM THE AMERICAN FARMER.

New London, Nov. 10.

Mr. Skinner—Dear Sir, enclosed is a small specimen of the Leghorn braid, manufactured in Hartford County, in this state. It has been in this place nearly a year; and has lost, perhaps, some of its original whiteness: * it is, also, of the coarsest quality, being one of the first experiments to imitate Leghorn. Under all these disadvantages, you will be gratified to see that the sample, without doubt, is the perfect Leghorn.

I regard the discovery as important to our country—the article being in extensive wear; but there can be no advantage derived from this discovery, unless our ladies can have

* It is still very beautiful, and fine enough for a princess. The editor of the Farmer has deposited this handsome specimen of American female patriotism and ingenuity, in his cabinet of domestic productions, along with the sample of superb blue cloth from the factory of Mr. Dickinson, of Steubenville, Ohio.

Some ladies have thought the American Leghorn very beautiful, *until* they were told it was *American*—then they could discover that it was not quite so fine as they at first thought. Thus are our judgments too often perverted by false taste and prejudice.

[*Editor Amer. Farmer.*

spirit, economy and patriotism sufficient to encourage the manufacture of this American Leghorn. As the subject may be interesting to some of your readers, I will briefly state all the information I possess in relation to it; and which has been furnished to me by the young ladies who first made the discovery.

The grass, (of which I also enclose you a specimen,) used in the manufacture, is found in great abundance on the low grounds on the margin of Connecticut river; it is also found plentifully in some parts of Litchfield county; and, indeed, if a strict search was made, I believe it might be found in all parts of our country. I do not know the botanical term for it. It is known, generally among our farmers, by the name of "*tickly mouth*"—although some call it "*wire grass*." It is found on the low grounds; it grows from one foot and a half to two and a half feet high; cattle refuse to eat it; when it is fit for gathering, it has a light yellow colour. Care should be taken not to gather it when too green—nor when too dry. In the first case, the colour will not be good: and in the second, the braid will prove brittle. The round spires are the proper ones to be used; care is required to select them as near one size as possible. After all that can be said on this subject, much will be left to employ the genius and judgment of the ladies.

I will not endeavour to instruct, respecting the braiding—those who are disposed to make the experiment can obtain a piece of the imported braid, and dissect it.

I have been told, that where the grass cannot be found, Rye straw, that part next to the heads, will answer for a good substitute—whether this be a fact, I am unable to determine.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
SIMEON FRANCIS.

Marble in South Carolina.—In the report of the civil and military engineer, a reference is made to the beds of marble lately discovered in the districts of York and Spartanburgh. This marble is on Broad river, principally in the neighbourhood of King's creek, where it is found in inexhaustible abundance; continuing from King's mountain across the country and Broad river, into Spartanburgh district, to the extent of thirty or forty miles, and reaching, in many places, five miles from the river. It is of the blue clouded, and upon trial found to be susceptible of the finest polish. We have seen a specimen in the possession of major Wilson, and think it quite equal to the Pennsylvania marble, which is so highly prized at the north. This is one of the many valuable productions of nature, which lie concealed in the bowels of the earth, and which will, no doubt, be developed by the researches now going forward with our internal improvements.

The limestone, mentioned in the same report, is also of an excellent quality. Our en-

terprising citizen, colonel Blanding, has made a constant use of it at the works for supplying Columbia with water, now progressing under his superintendence. He pronounces it superior to the lime of Pennsylvania, as a cement for brick and stone. Owing to the quantity of silex which it contains, it may not, however, answer so well for plastering and moulding, from the difficulty of keeping it in a loose and pliable state.

We have also been shown a specimen of oilstone found in Abbeville, which is said to be equal to the Turkey stone in common use.

Columbia, (S. C.) Nov. 27.

Blue Colour.—It has been ascertained that the most permanent blue may be produced by a combination of iodine with starch. This curious fact was first observed by M. M. Colin, and Gaultier de Glauby. The easiest way of forming this compound is to triturate starch with an excess of iodine, to dissolve the mixture in potash, and then to add a vegetable acid. The *iodine of starch* falls down in the state of a fine blue colour. Stromeyr, professor of chemistry at Gottingen, has found that starch is a most delicate test of the presence of iodine in liquids. He affirms that the starch acquires a perceptibly blue tinge, when the iodine does not exceed 1.450000th of the liquid.

Iodine has been detected in various sea-plants by Gaultier de Glauby. He found it in *fucus saccharinus*, *fucus digitatus*, *fucus resicola*, *fucus striatus*, *fucus siliquosus*, and *fucus filum*. Davy found indications of the presence of iodine in the ashes of *fucus cartilagineus*, *fucus membranaceus*, *fucus rubens*, *fucus filamentosus*, *rivila*, *favonia*, and *ulva linza*.

[*Bost. Ev. Gaz.*]

Mahogany Furniture.—A Mr. Callender, in England, has proposed a method of seasoning mahogany, for which the society for the encouragement of arts have rewarded him. The following is his simple and efficacious process.

Having provided a *steam tight* wooden box, capable of holding, conveniently, such pieces of mahogany as are fit for chairs, tables, &c. he adapts to it a pipe from a boiler, by means of which he fills the box (after the mahogany is put into it) with steam, the temperature of which is about equal to boiling water. The time required for wood an inch and a half thick, is about two hours; and pieces of this thickness are stated to become sufficiently dry to work, after being placed in a warm room or work-shop for 24 hours.

By this treatment, the wood is somewhat improved in its general colour, and those blemishes which are technically called *green veins*, are entirely removed. The eggs or larvæ, also, of any insects which may be contained in the wood will be destroyed by the heat.

By this process, a considerable part of the capital vested in wood lying to season for many months, may be saved; and a great deal of warping in articles made in mahogany is prevented.

[Pet. Intell.]

In letters from Italy, published in a London paper, the writer in giving a description of Palermo, which has a population of 150,000, says—A small room, ten feet square, lodges a whole family of eight or ten persons, with their stock of furniture, &c. Among the lower classes there is no such thing as a family or domestic meal; what they eat they take in their hands, and make their repast while walking in the streets, and afterwards take their rest on the flat pavement in some public place, where they frequently pass the whole night.

Mr. Charles Dibdin has written from fifteen hundred to two thousand songs, thirteen serious pantomimes, thirty-five harlequin do., thirty-five melo dramas, forty-two musical pieces of one and two acts, exclusive of comic operas and other pieces played at Drury Lane and Covent Garden theatres.

A wag in Belfast lately stuck up a label in a conspicuous place in that city, announcing the arrival in town of three gentlemen, who all had a particular objection to dining at *inns*, preferring private invitations to dinner as well as supper, and calling upon the hospitable inhabitants of the town to show their customary politeness, and addressing them where to send their cards of invitation. The intention of the placard was an attack upon certain persons who were constantly in the habit of taxing their acquaintances in procuring meals without expense, very often to the great expense and annoyance of the domestic circle.

Record.

Sixteenth Congress.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

Dec. 7.—The President's message was received.

Dec. 8.—A bill was passed to authorize members of Congress to transmit, free of postage, any documents printed by either house.

The memorial of the people of the District of Maine, praying to be admitted into the union, together with the constitution they have formed, was referred to the committee to whom had been referred the constitution of Alabama.

A bill was passed for the admission of the state of Alabama into the union.

Dec. 9.—The Rev. Reuben Post was appointed chaplain.

The memorial of the Philadelphia chamber of commerce was read.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Dec. 7.—The President's message was received.

Dec. 8.—The memorial from the people of the District of Maine, and the constitution formed by them, were referred to a committee.

The standing committees were ordered to be appointed.

A bill was passed authorizing the transmission, free of postage, of any documents which may be transmitted to members of Congress by the President or heads of departments.

The House went into committee of the whole on the state of the union. The message was referred to several committees. Manufactures were referred to a separate committee (they have been heretofore classed with commerce). The subjects of the militia—Indians—roads and canals—public buildings—revolutionary pensions,—were severally referred to select committees.

The Rev. Burgess Allison was chosen chaplain.

The resolution from the Senate, admitting Alabama into the union, was received and passed.

Dec. 9.—The memorial of the Philadelphia society praying for encouragement to manufactures, was referred.

The committee on that subject, reported a bill to authorize the people of Missouri territory to form a constitution and state government—referred to a committee of the whole house.

A committee was ordered to report a bill for taking the fourth census of the inhabitants of the United States.

A committee was ordered to inquire into the propriety of paying for property lost in the Seminole war.

The committee on public lands were ordered to inquire into the expediency of giving longer credit for lands heretofore sold by the government within the state of Illinois.

Mr. Pinckney of S. C. gave notice, that he should, on this day week, ask leave to introduce a bill to establish a circulating medium for the United States.

Dec. 10.—A petition was received from the Philadelphia chamber of commerce, in favour of a bankrupt law, and several for a revision of the tariff of duties.

A committee was appointed to inquire whether any public money has been paid to any army or troops raised without the authority of Congress.

The committee on the judiciary was instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the prosecution of suits in the nature of petitions of right, and informations of intrusion, in cases in which the government of the United States is concerned.

Dec. 13.—Petitions in favour of manufactures and a bankrupt law, were received.

The committee on public lands were instructed to inquire into the expediency of giving a longer credit on debts due from purchasers.

A resolution was offered, "That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of fixing by law a standard of weights and measures;" but was withdrawn on the suggestion that the secretary of state was about to make a full report on that subject.

Pennsylvania Legislature

SENATE.

Dec. 7.—Isaac Weaver was again chosen speaker.

Mr. Breck offered a resolution expressing the sense of the legislature of Pennsylvania, against the introduction of slavery into new states.

Mr. Raguet offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee, to inquire into the causes of the present embarrassments of the country.

Dec. 10.—The subject of erecting a bridge over the Delaware, from Windmill island to the Jersey shore, opposite Philadelphia, was referred to the city and county members.

Dec. 11.—Mr. Leib reported a bill to incorporate the second district of the Northern Liberties.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Dec. 7.—Joseph Lawrence was appointed speaker.

Dec. 8.—A petition to inquire into the conduct of the governor, was referred to a committee.

Dec. 10.—The governor's message was received. We give a brief analysis of some parts.

The commissioners appointed to explore a route for a canal to unite the waters of ChickeSalungo, Conestoga and French creeks, have not commenced, in consequence of the insufficiency of the compensation provided by law.

The act concerning banks has not been carried into effect against any of the banks. Many have wound up their business; and the force of public opinion is so great, that there is little fear of a recurrence to issues of paper not founded on a specie basis.

The distress of the country is spoken of, and the propriety of giving some relief is suggested. The issue of loans, and the encouragement of societies for promoting agriculture, manufactures, and domestic economy, are recommended.

On the subjects of education, marriage, the judiciary, and internal improvement, the last message is referred to. It is recommended to appoint a board of commissioners to make surveys and to take the level of our principal streams, report the practicability of rendering them navigable, and connecting them by

canals so as to unite the waters of the western lakes with the tide water of the Delaware near Philadelphia, accompanied with plans and estimates of the expense of execution. The information that might, without much expense, be thereby acquired, would be highly beneficial; and if the measure should be found practicable, as its accomplishment would contribute nearly to the equal accommodation of our constituents, no sectional jealousy can exist against bringing the resources of the state into operation, whenever they may be required for the purpose.

When we consider the proximity of the sources of the eastern and western navigable waters of Pennsylvania, and the probability that a direct water communication may be made by their connexion through the state from the Atlantic shores to the waters of the vast regions of the western states and territories, we can hardly overrate the magnitude of the object that opens to our view and invites our enterprise, or the greatness of the reward that awaits us by its completion.

The commissioners appointed by the states of Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania, to examine the obstructions in the navigation of the Ohio river, have lately made a report to me, copies of which are herewith transmitted. It is accompanied with drafts and plots, with explanatory notes, evincing the ability and assiduity of the commissioners in executing the duties assigned them. Copies of these shall also be laid before you, as early as they can be prepared. They contain a detailed description of the nature and extent of the obstructions, which it appears can be overcome or removed at a comparatively small expense; and the benefits that would arise therefrom are so fully set forth in the report, that they will, I trust, induce the legislature to adopt the measure it recommends. Whether we view the immediate advantages that would flow to Pennsylvania, and especially to our western city and country, by its adoption, or consider the improvement as an important branch in the extensive system of inland navigation alluded to, there is no object of internal improvement to which an appropriation of the amount suggested by the commissioners could be more beneficially applied.

It is suggested that companies incorporated for improving our inland navigation, should be bound to make annual reports of their expense and progress.

The completion of turnpike roads from the northern and western parts of the state to Philadelphia, is retarded by pecuniary embarrassment, and legislative aid is recommended.

It is recommended to provide for the punishment of kidnapping. At present our laws regard the stealing of a horse as a more heinous offence than that of stealing a man.

Dec. 11.—Mr. Lehman submitted the following:

"Whereas the prompt construction, not only of good roads and bridges, but also of water conveyances, is demanded by the highest interests of the commonwealth, and with-

out the fostering aid of government, individual effort and enterprize are found to be inadequate to the accomplishment of such important objects; therefore,

Resolved, That the committee on roads and inland navigation be instructed to inquire into the expediency of guaranteeing the payment of interest, for a limited period, on such new subscriptions of money, as may be obtained towards the capital stock of the Union Canal Company.

The following preamble and resolutions were laid on the table by William J. Duane.

"The senate and house of representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, whilst they cherish the right of the individual states, to express their opinions upon all public measures proposed in the Congress of the union, are aware that its usefulness must in a great degree depend upon the discretion with which it is exercised; they believe that the right ought not to be resorted to upon trivial subjects or unimportant occasions; but they are also persuaded that there are moments when the neglect to exercise it would be a dereliction of public duty.

"Such an occasion as, in their judgment, demands the frank expression of the sentiments of Pennsylvania, is now presented. A measure was ardently supported in the last Congress of the United States, and will probably be as earnestly urged during the existing session of that body, which has a palpable tendency to impair the political relations of the several states; which is calculated to mar the social happiness of the present and future generations; which, if adopted, would impede the march of humanity and freedom through the world; and would transfer from a misguided ancestry an odious stain and fix it indelibly upon the present race; a measure, in brief, which proposes to spread the crimes and cruelties of slavery from the banks of the Mississippi to the shores of the Pacific.

"When a measure of this character is seriously advocated in the republican Congress of America, in the nineteenth century, the several states are invoked by the duty which they owe to the Deity, by the veneration which they entertain for the memory of the founders of the republic, and by a tender regard for posterity, to protest against its adoption, to refuse to covenant with crime, and to limit the range of an evil that already hangs in awful boding over so large a portion of the union.

"Nor can such a protest be entered by any state with greater propriety than by Pennsylvania: this commonwealth has as sacredly respected the rights of other states as it has been careful of its own; it has been the invariable aim of the people of Pennsylvania to extend to the universe by their example the unadulterated blessings of civil and religious freedom; it is their pride that they have been at all times the practical advocates of those improvements and charities amongst men,

which are so well calculated to enable them to answer the purposes of their Creator; and, above all, they may boast that they were foremost in removing the pollution of slavery from amongst them.

"If, indeed, the measure, against which Pennsylvania considers it her duty to raise her voice, were calculated to abridge any of the rights guaranteed to the several states; if, odious as slavery is, it was proposed to hasten its extinction by means injurious to the states upon which it was unhappily entailed, Pennsylvania would be amongst the first to insist upon a sacred observance of the constitutional compact. But it cannot be pretended, that the rights of any of the states are at all to be affected, by refusing to extend the mischiefs of human bondage over the boundless regions of the west: a territory which formed no part of the union, at the adoption of the constitution; which has been but lately purchased from an European power by the people of the union at large; which may or may not be admitted as a state into the union at the discretion of Congress; which must establish a republican form of government, and no other; and whose climate affords none of the pretexts urged for resorting to the labour of natives of the torrid zone; —such a territory has no right, inherent or acquired, such as those states possessed which established the existing constitution. When that constitution was framed in September, 1787, the concession, that three-fifths of the slaves in the states then existing should be represented in Congress, could not have been intended to embrace regions at that time held by a foreign power. On the contrary, so anxious were the Congress of that day to confine human bondage within its home, that on the 13th of July, 1787, that body, unanimously declared that slavery or involuntary servitude should not exist in the extensive territories bounded by the Ohio, the Mississippi, Canada and the lakes; and in the ninth article of the constitution itself, the power of Congress to prohibit the migration of servile persons after the year 1808, is expressly recognized: nor is there to be found in the statute book a single instance of the admission of a territory to the rank of a state, in which Congress have not adhered to the right, vested in them by the constitution, to stipulate with the territory upon the conditions of the boon.

"The senate and house of representatives of Pennsylvania, therefore, cannot but deprecate any departure from the humane and enlightened policy, pursued not only by the illustrious Congress which framed the constitution, but by their successors without exception. They are persuaded, that to open the fertile regions of the west to a servile race, would tend to increase their numbers beyond all past example, would open a new and steady market for the lawless venders of human flesh, and would render all schemes for obliterating this most foul blot upon the American character, useless and unavailing.

"Under these convictions, and in the full persuasion that upon this topic there is but one opinion in Pennsylvania—

"Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that the senators of this state in the Congress of the United States be, and they are hereby instructed, and that the representatives of the people of this state in the Congress of the United States be, and they are hereby requested, to vote against the admission of any territory as a state into the union, unless such territory shall stipulate and agree, that "the further introduction of slavery or involuntary servitude, except for the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall be prohibited; and that all children born within the said territory after its admission into the union as a state, shall be free, but may be held to service until the age of twenty-five years."

"Resolved, that the governor be, and he is hereby requested, to cause a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution to be transmitted to each of the senators and representatives of this state in the Congress of the United States."

—
Thomas Mann Randolph has been elected by the legislature, governor of Virginia, in the room of Mr. Preston, whose constitutional term of service has expired.

The legislature of Virginia, met on the 6th inst.

The legislature of Maryland met on the 7th inst.

Samuel Sprigg, esq. has been elected by the legislature, governor of Maryland.

Georgia.—The commissioners appointed to survey the ground between the Altamaha and Turtle rivers, and to ascertain the practicability of cutting a canal, so as to connect the two rivers, have reported favourably.

A bill has passed the House of Representatives of Georgia, repealing the law on usury. It makes no alteration in the present established legal interest, and subjects the usurer to a mere nominal penalty, viz. the forfeiture of so much interest as exceeds 8 per cent.

A bill to prevent the introduction of aliens into the city of Savannah, during the sickly months, has passed one branch of the Georgia legislature by a large majority. The penalties are very severe on captains of vessels for a violation of it.

A bill to prevent pedlers from vending goods, &c. in the state, has passed both houses, and only wants the governor's signature to make it a law.

The legislature of South Carolina has adopted a resolution, to prohibit the intro-

duction of free negroes into that state, 93 to 23.

Emigration.—A citizen of St. Charles who has taken the trouble to note the wagons, carriages and carts, which have passed that town during the present fall, reports their numbers to average one hundred and twenty per week, for nine or ten weeks back. Suppose the number of individuals attached to each vehicle to amount to eight or ten, and the aggregate would be equal to ten or twelve thousand souls which have entered the territory before that time alone. They come almost exclusively from the states south of the Ohio and Potomac, bring many slaves, large herds of cattle, fine road wagons, many handsome carriages, and give us an increase of population still more valuable for its respectability than for its numbers. [St. Louis Enq.

New York, Dec. 10.

We have conversed with major Long, who commands the scientific expedition on the Missouri. He left the Council Bluffs about the middle of October last. The Missouri is extremely difficult of navigation and obstructed by vast sand bars running generally parallel with the river. The vast bodies of sand brought in by the river Platte give this character to the Missouri below its junction with the former. Above the Platte the river assumes a more favourable aspect, being less rapid and sandy. Talks had been held with various tribes of Indians, and a friendly disposition was manifested.

[Columbian.

Albany.—It gives us pleasure to learn, that a *Savings Bank* is about to be established in this city—that the names of our most respectable and influential citizens are already subscribed to an association for this purpose; an application will be made to the legislature at its ensuing session for a charter. [Alb. Gaz.

Massachusetts State Prison.—The affairs of the state prison, in Charlestown, whatever may be thought of the utility of penitentiary punishment, were never exhibited in so favourable a light, as they have been the present year. We have perused the statement of the annual accounts, from which we have made some abstracts. It will be seen that the expenses have been trifling; and that little would have been less, had not an unusual number of convicts been in the hospital or in solitary confinement, or been otherwise confined for punishment.

There were in the prison in October

1818, 371 convicts. In September 1819 there were 340—of which number there were 46 weavers, &c. 11 screw-makers—4 nailers—38 shoemakers—11 brush-makers—5 smiths—7 founders—3 tin-workers—8 cabinet-makers—24 cooks, sweepers, &c. employed for the prison—7 coopers—93 stone-cutters*—20 oakum pickers—23 common labourers. In the hospital were 26 and 1 in solitary confinement—and there were 13 females. Of the whole number 35 males and 1 female are confined for life—48 males and 1 female are black or coloured—50 are foreigners. There are 56 in for the second—10 the third—6 the fourth and 1 the fifth time.

The expenses of the prison the present year have been . . . \$55,585
To which is added, a loss
by failures 4,000
— 59,585
The receipts from various species
of labour were 48,975

Balance \$10,610
Charging this balance, and making an estimate of the stock on hand, the amount of the expenses of the prison the year ending the 30th September last, were only 2,472 dollars. But certain salaries of officers are paid at the treasury of the commonwealth, amounting to 2,900 dollars, which added to the above sum, makes a total expense of 5,372 dollars per annum, allowing 4,000 dollars for a bad debt.

[*Bost. Intel.*]

Aristendi's Decree.—John Baptist Aristendi, vice president of Venezuela: “Considering the exhausted state of the national treasury, the increased and necessary expenses of the war, sustained by Venezuela for the establishment of her independence, and the immense payments she has to make, not only to meet her principal debts, but also to satisfy those arising from the different contracts entered into with foreigners, for the religious fulfilment whereof the honour and glory of the republic are pledged; in virtue of the extraordinary powers conferred on me by the sovereign congress, I have decreed and do decree as follows:

“ Article I. Immediately after the promulgation of this decree, all hides of black cattle, whoever may be their owners, are declared to belong to the state, without reserve or ex-

* The hammering of granite is an important branch of industry; the sales last year were \$2,983 dollars.

ception, and it alone shall have the power of disposing thereof.”

Then follows some rules as to the manner of taking possession, &c. Such an outrageous effusion of tyranny, if submitted to by the people, will show very clearly that they are unfit for a free government. [Ref's Gaz.

MARRIED.

At Friends' Meeting, at Byberry, on the 1st inst. Francis Rotch, to Ann Waln Morgan, of this city.

At Canewood, Clarke county, (Ky.) on the 24th ult. Mr. Benjamin Gratz, of this city, to Miss Maria C. Gist, of the former place.

On the 7th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Potts, Mr. Wm. Riddle, merchant, to Miss Ann Young, both of this city.

On the 9th inst. by the Rev. Dr. Abercrombie, Charles F. Mayer, of Baltimore, to Susan T. daughter of Henry Pratt, of this city.

On the 14th inst. by the Rev. Thomas Skinner, Dr. Thomas Harris, of the United States' navy, to Miss Jane P. Hodgdon, daughter of Samuel Hodgdon, all of this city.

DIED.

At Wellsborough, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, on the 6th ult. Mary Morris, wife of Benjamin W. Morris, aged 55 years.

On the 8th inst. in the 77th year of his age, Mr. Thomas Shields.

On the 9th inst. in the 23d year of her age, whilst on a visit to her friends in the city of Philadelphia, Miss Anne C. Coleman, daughter of Robert Coleman, esq. of the city of Lancaster.

On the 10th inst. in her 80th year, Mrs. Elizabeth Young, relict of captain Samuel Young, some time harbour master of the port of Philadelphia.

On the 12th inst. in her 63d year, after a tedious illness, Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, relict of James Duncan.

On the 15th inst. in the 76th year of her age, Margaret Calender.

On the 24th of the 11th mo. 1819, at Burlington, (N. J.) Susanna Emlen, wife of Samuel Emlen, formerly of this city.

It seems to be a duty incumbent on friendship, to endeavour to preserve some memorial (however frail), that so much worth and excellence has existed, and the writer of this article has only to regret the inadequacy of her pen to portray a character strictly faithful to truth, that should not be regarded by strangers to this inestimable woman, as the language of panegyric. Possessed of all the mild and endearing virtues, gentle, benevolent, good, she was the delight of her friends, and a treasure of inestimable worth to her husband and relatives. The spotless purity of her mind and sweetness of her whole character, appeared so entirely without alloy, that she seemed like an inhabitant of a more blessed sphere,

“ Let down in cloudy throne to do the world some good.” And a bright and beautiful example has she been to all who have witnessed her patience and resignation, under the most severe sufferings and long protracted anguish. She had a very solid judgment, united to great delicacy of taste; her disposition was remarkably kind and tender; her mind serious, but her temper cheerful and social; and her lovely countenance beamed united intelligence and softness. But she has gone, and her death is the withdrawing of a most radiant and beautiful orb, that gladdened and enlightened the circle of her family and friends. Yet the triumphant “ hope of glory,” through the blessed Redeemer, is felt over all!

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